

Detailed Information

(Updated: 08-24-2005)

New “Web-UTS” Access Method for PMIS and BES Replaces the Old IBM3270 Emulator Method

Due to evolving technology, VITA is working to provide a browser-based method for certain agencies to access PMIS and BES. Below are sections covering the latest conversion status and news, an upcoming optional survey, PMIS and BES screens using Web-UTS, and a background overview of the conversion.

1. Conversion Status

As of 08-24-2005, this conversion is about 80% complete. At least 128 of 145 in-scope agencies have been converted to the new access method; and over 600 of 814 in-scope users have used the new method.

2. Latest Conversion News

New Version of Web-UTS Being Rolled Out VITA will soon be rolling out a new version of Web-UTS. For most agencies the new version is neutral; however it will help some agencies that have not been able yet to use the new access method. As the new Web-UTS version is rolled out, it may prompt users to “re-install” and update the Web-UTS ActiveX components. If you get such a prompt, just click OK to proceed with the update.

Optional User Survey Coming Soon: Web-UTS users, look for an upcoming online survey on the Web-UTS conversion. It will be short, easy and optional. When it arrives, please share with us your feedback on the conversion and the new access method. Look here for more details in the next few weeks.

3. Please Help Us Complete the Conversion

If you have been converted to Web-UTS, please use only the new access method and discontinue using the old IBM3270 access method. Our goal is to get all remaining in-scope users converted to Web-UTS in the next upcoming months.

Please contact Kevin Kelley at VITA by phone (804 371-5733) or email (Kevin.Kelley@vita.virginia.gov):

- If your agency is in-scope but your desktop PC has not yet been converted to use Web-UTS; or
- If your desktop PC has been converted to use Web-UTS, but you are having any technical difficulty accessing PMIS or BES.

This will help us focus support to get all in-scope users “up and running” with Web-UTS.

Eventually, after the conversion is completed, the old IBM3270 access method will be “turned off” for PMIS and BES and Web-UTS will become the default access method for those applications.

4. Help: PMIS and BES Screens Using Web-UTS

After agencies convert to the new access method and begin using Web-UTS, their PMIS and BES users will see a few noticeable differences in the PMIS/BES screens they have used before.

After logging into Unisys TIP (using your “PER---“ userid), from the Home position, enter “PMIS” and transmit. This should present you the PMIS Broadcast.

The following screen differences will be noticed.

Color Functionality: PMIS screens and fields will have color functionality. Changed fields will appear in red. Transactions denoting separation from State service will appear in green. Retracted transactions will appear in pink.

Linked or “Hypertext” Fields: Some fields will appear with underlines. Transmitting or double-clicking on the underlined field will provide additional field-specific information or some other dynamic function. Refer to the following archived PMIS broadcasts on the ITECH web page for more specific information. Both broadcasts can be found under “Archived Messages” for November 16, 2004.

- ***“NEW DATA ACCESSES ADDED TO ALLOW FASTER ACCESS TO RELATED SCREENS”***
- ***“SHORTCUTS CODE TRANSLATIONS ADDED TO THE PSE305, PSE309, AND PSP999 SCREENS TO QUICKLY TRANSLATE DATA CODES”***

Shortcut Screen Transmit Key: This feature should help end-users who do a lot of data entry or other screen type keying. If the user presses the PAGEDOWN key, it will place the cursor at the bottom right of the screen and do a transmit. This is a shortcut to having to tab through the screen to transmit from the bottom right position. At DHRM's request, VITA has included this special key function as part of the default configuration of Web-UTS.

Using Windows “Cut & Paste” in PMIS RECRUIT Screens: After the Web-UTS conversion is completed for all affected agencies, all authorized users for RECRUIT update transactions will be able to “cut & paste” job description texts into the PSR100 transaction (“Job Duties / Qualifications” screen).

Previously, some but not all, IBM3270 users could use Windows “cut & paste” functionality to fill in RECRUIT position descriptions. This ability is not available within Web-UTS until the agency conversion is complete. After all in-scope agencies have been converted to Web-UTS and there are no remaining IBM3270 type users, the PMIS RECRUIT screens will be modified so that Windows “cut & paste” functions will work.

Unisys Mapper and PDAS Using Web-UTS: For agencies that already use the DHRM Mapper PDAS system to obtain PMIS or BES information, these functions will still be available using Web-UTS.

After logging into Unisys TIP (using your “PER---“ userid), from the Home position, enter “M2” and transmit. This should present you the PDAS Menu for your agency.

Additional Questions or Help: If you have questions or need additional information regarding using PMIS or BES after the conversion to Web-UTS, please contact the DHRM help desk at <http://ihelp.state.va.us/> or email us at <mailto:ihelp@dhrm.state.va.us>.

5. Conversion Background: Why It Was Necessary and Who It Affects

Why It Was Necessary: Network Connectivity Method to Access PMIS and BES The IBM mainframe SNA (System Network Architecture) connectivity to the UNISYS mainframe is being discontinued. In response, VITA in concert with DHRM has worked to provide an alternative network connectivity method for agencies using SNA (IBM3270) connectivity.

VITA requires that the new method use the existing, restricted-access Commonwealth Network (or a comparable secure connection) and a downloadable software product named Web-UTS. This method provides secure, browser-based connectivity to DHRM UNISYS applications. The expectation is that the new access solution will be "cost-neutral" to participating agencies.

The "old" access method will remain until all affected agencies have been converted to the new access method or offered alternative solutions.

In December 2004, DHRM sent an informational memo on the new access method to agency HR Director contacts. DHRM also provided each in-scope agency a list of its recent PMIS end-users who will need to use the new access method.

In January 2005, VITA sent brief overview information on the new access method to in-scope agency HR Director contacts. Later, VITA sent specific information to technical contacts at each agency as it began the conversion process.

The phased conversion of affected agencies to the new access method began in early February 2005. VITA continues to manage the rollout of the new method to affected agencies, while DHRM monitors the conversion process.

Who It Affects: Systems and Users in-scope The Personnel Management Information System (PMIS) and Benefits Eligibility System (BES) that reside on the UNISYS mainframe at VITA are in-scope. This includes the PMIS sub-systems of RECRUIT, Employee Position Reports (EPR) and Performance Management (PM).

Authorized online terminals across 145 agencies and 800+ authorized users (including colleges, universities) that access PMIS and BES by way of VITA's Commonwealth Network using IBM's SNA network connectivity and **IBM-3270** terminal emulation **are in-scope**.

Online terminals across 8 agencies that connect to PMIS and BES using TCP/IP, Host LAN connectivity (HLC) and Unisys **UTS** terminal emulation, **are not in scope** and should not notice any change in their access. These agencies are not affected and need take no action regarding VITA's rollout of the new access method.

DHRM and VITA are committed to a smooth transition with a minimal disruption in agencies' work while this implementation takes place. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.

NOTE: *If you have any questions related with the meaning of technical terms used above, please contact your network administrator.*